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VZCZCXRO0404
PP RUEHDE RUEHDIR
DE RUEHMK #0510/01 2131456
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 311456Z JUL 08
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8024
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0260
RHBVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT  PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000510

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/31/2018
TAGS: PGOV PHUM BA
SUBJECT: TOUGH KING, NICE KING: STERN WARNINGS TO SHI'A,
AND THEN AN AMNESTY

REF: A. 07 MANAMA 810
¶B. 07 MANAMA 897 C. MANAMA 163 D. MANAMA 313 E. MANAMA 420 F. MANAMA 430 G. MANAMA 442 H. MANAMA 471 Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for

1.(U) Summary: Departing from the detached style he has displayed for over a year, King Hamad has intervened forcefully against sectarianism an

2.(C) Over the past two months King Hamad has taken personal charge of managing Bahrain's Sunni-Shi'a tensions and the political response to on

3.(C) The King next called in Bahrain's newspaper editors for a July 19 scolding. He prefaced his remarks by acknowledging the value of free me

4.(C) Editors from Al Waqt and Akhbar al Khaleej, which are both critical of U.S., reported that the King wondered aloud why Bahrainis would ap

5.(U) On July 20, Bahrain's cabinet, following up on the King's statements the day before, declared that the government would suspend developme

6.(U) The King next called in fifty clerics of both sects on July 29 to demand they support national unity in their preaching. He ordered the c

7.(U) On July 30, the King announced an amnesty for at least 225 prisoners. It appears that the beneficiaries will include most of the young Sh

8.(C) During an audience July 30, the King told Ambassador and visiting General Petraeus that achieving a peaceful, multicultural Bahrain remai

9.(C) Comment: If there was any remaining question as to whether the King's health problems last year had dimmed his capacities, his actions ov
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